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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/568,720

02/16/2006

Heiko Bald

GP-307708

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286 7590 02/21/2007
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EXAMINER

GLUCHOWSKI, KRISTINA R

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3676

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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3 MONTHS

02/21/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/568,720

Applicant(s)

BALD, HEIKO

Examiner

Kristina R. Gluchowski

Art Unit

3676

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 February 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 16 February 2006 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>2/16/06</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the vehicle and vehicle doors claimed in claim 1 and all other dependent claims must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 1-20 are objected to because of the following informalities: The claim language, particularly the preamble of "the vehicle", directs the invention to "a vehicle" and not the locking system as described in the specification. It is assumed from the disclosure that the applicant means to claim a central locking system *for* a vehicle but has inadvertently created a combination/subcombination issue between the car and locking system. Appropriate correction is required to clarify the claimed subject matter. The examiner has examined claim 1 to read "A central locking system for at least vehicle doors, comprising: an electrical switch for changing the central locking system to a locking or an unlocking state, and an opening..."

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The preamble of the claim is claiming "the vehicle according to claim 1" but the limitations following the preamble are directed at the locking system. The vehicle is not pivoting out of position. The examiner has examined claim 2 "as best understood" to mean the central locking system according to claim 1.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Suparschi (US 2001/0005082). Regarding claim 1, Suparschi shows a central locking system for vehicle doors comprising an electrical switch (34 and 44) for changing the central locking system to a locking or an unlocking state and an opening lever (16) which is pivotable disposed at an inside of a vehicle door (paragraph [0001]), for opening thereof wherein the switch is associated with the opening lever inside the door such that when the opening lever is pivoted out of an inoperative position into a first switched position, it effects a locking or an unlocking state of the central locking system and the locking or unlocking state is maintained until the opening lever is again pivoted into its switched position (see paragraphs [0061-62]).

7. Regarding claim 2, “as best understood” when the opening lever is pivoted out of inoperative position into a mechanical opening position (see paragraph [0046]) the lever passes through a second switched position in which the switch generates a signal for changing the central locking system over to the unlocking state (see figure 4 for the unlocking position).

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8. Regarding claims 3 and 4, the switch (34,44) is integrated into a mechanism (the housing, 26) of the opening lever.
9. Regarding claims 5-8, the switch is "associated" in a rotationally rigid manner with a pivot pin (37) of the opening lever (paragraph [0051]).
10. Regarding claims 9-16, the opening lever automatically returns from its switched position and the opening position to its inoperative position (paragraph [0039]).
11. Regarding claims 17-20, the opening lever returns in a spring-loaded fashion to the inoperative position (see paragraph [0039]). See the Suparschi device below in the "inoperative" position.

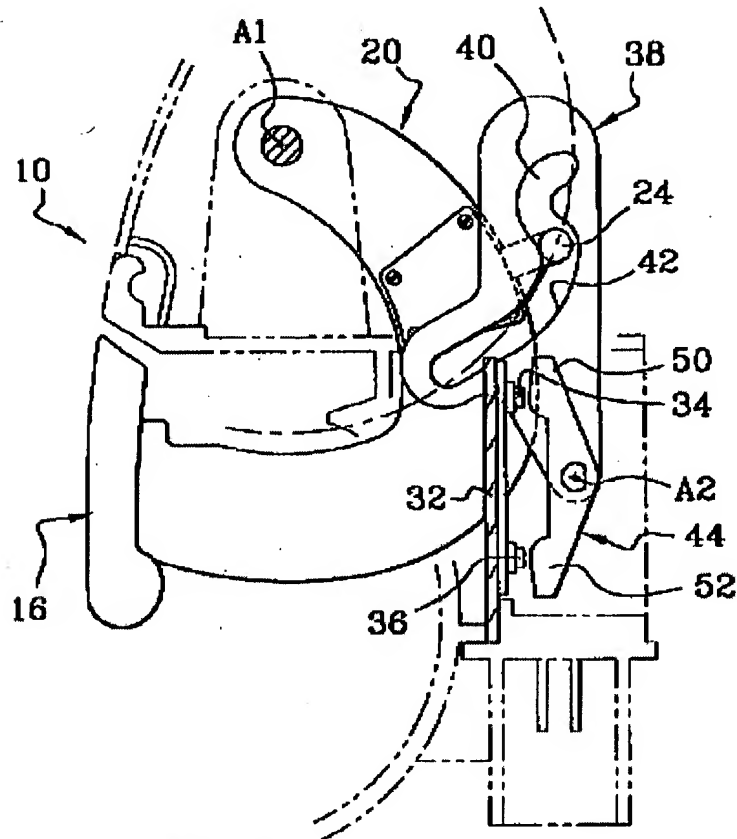


FIG. 3

Conclusion

12. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Wittwer (US 2003/0019261) shows an access system for a vehicle.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kristina R. Gluchowski whose telephone number is 571-

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272-7376. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 7am-4:30pm, alternating Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Glessner can be reached on 571-272-6843. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

KRG *KRG*
February 15, 2007



BRIAN E. GLESSNER
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER